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NVI 4677
PATENT

C. Queen
2/4/951

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Christopher D. Knight Art Unit 1761
Serial No. 08/900,414
Filed July 25, 1997
For PROCESS FOR OPTIMIZING MILK PRODUCTION
Examiner Nina Bhat

January 22, 1999

AMENDMENT A

RECEIVED

FEB 01 1999

GROUP 1700

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,

SIR:

In response to the office action dated September 22, 1998, please enter the following amendments:

Please amend claim 1 to recite:

Claim 1 (amended). A process for formulating a ruminant food ration, the process comprising:

determining the methionine needs of the ruminant.

identifying a plurality of natural or synthetic feed ingredients and the nutrient composition of each of said ingredients wherein one of said ingredients is a hydroxy analog of methionine selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid, [or a] salts, amides [or] and esters thereof, and

formulating a ration from the identified feed ingredients to meet the determined methionine needs of the ruminant which comprises one or more grains, [a] the hydroxy analog of methionine, and optionally a bypass fat wherein (i) [the hydroxy analog of methionine is selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid and the salts, amides and esters thereof, (ii)] the hydroxy analog of methionine is added separately from any